

INTRAFLAGELLAR TRANSPORT (IFT): ROLE IN CILIARY ASSEMBLY, RESORPTION AND SIGNALLING

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Abstract

Cilia and flagella have attracted tremendous attention in recent years as research demonstrated crucial roles for these organelles in coordinating a number of physiologically and developmentally important signaling pathways, including the platelet-derived growth factor receptor (PDGFR) α , Sonic hedgehog, polycystin, and Wnt pathways. In addition, the realization that defective assembly or function of cilia can cause a plethora of diseases and developmental defects (“ciliopathies”) has increased focus on the mechanisms by which

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these antenna-like, microtubular structures assemble. Ciliogenesis is a complex, multistep process that is tightly coordinated with cell cycle progression and differentiation. The ciliary axoneme is extended from a modified centriole, the basal body, which migrates to and docks onto the apical plasma membrane early in ciliogenesis as cells enter growth arrest. The ciliary axoneme is elongated via intraflagellar transport (IFT), a bidirectional transport system that tracks along the polarized microtubules of the axoneme, and which is required for assembly of almost all cilia and flagella. Here, we provide an overview of ciliogenesis with particular emphasis on the molecular mechanisms and functions of IFT. In addition to a general, up-to-date description of IFT, we discuss mechanisms by which proteins are selectively targeted to the ciliary compartment, with special focus on the ciliary transition zone. Finally, we briefly review the role of IFT in cilia-mediated signaling, including how IFT is directly involved in moving signaling moieties into and out of the ciliary compartment.

1. INTRODUCTION

Cilia and flagella¹ are slender microtubule (MT)-based organelles with important motile and sensory functions. They consist of a highly organized MT-based axoneme that is extended from a modified centriole, the basal body, which anchors the axoneme in the cell. The ciliary axoneme projects out from the cell surface and is surrounded by a bilayer lipid membrane that is continuous with the plasma membrane of the cell body, but which contains a different complement of membrane receptors and ion channels (Fig. 2.1). Separating the two membrane compartments at the ciliary base is a region known as the “ciliary necklace” (Gilula and Satir, 1972), which is connected by fibers to the transition zone of the basal body (Fig. 2.1A, E, and H). It has been proposed that these transition zone fibers are part of a “ciliary pore complex,” which, by analogy to the nuclear pore, functions as a regulated gate of entry where ciliary precursors and intraflagellar transport (IFT) proteins accumulate prior to entering the ciliary compartment via IFT (Rosenbaum and Witman, 2002).

In general, two types of cilia exist: those that are motile and those that are nonmotile. However, whether motile or not, all types of cilia have important sensory functions that are critical for controlling a large number of cellular and developmental processes (Christensen *et al.*, 2007; Eggenschwiler and Anderson, 2007). Motile cilia and flagella typically contain an axoneme with nine outer doublet MTs, composed of A and B subfibers, which are held together by nexin links, as well as a central pair of MTs. These cilia are

¹ Cilia and flagella are identical organelles, but for historical reasons, “cilia” is generally used when the organelle is present in multiple copies per cell while “flagella” is used when only one or two copies are present. Here, the terms will be used interchangeably.

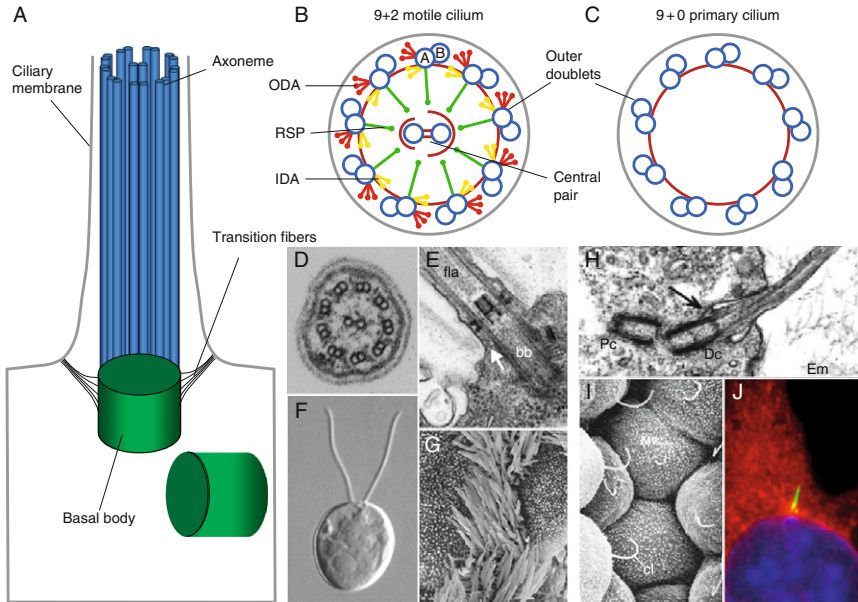


Figure 2.1 Diversity and structure of cilia and flagella. (A) Schematic showing the overall structure of a $9 + 2$ cilium. (B) Schematic of a cross section of a $9 + 2$ cilium highlighting the main axonemal components (ODA, outer dynein arm; IDA, inner dynein arm; RSP, radial spoke). (C) Schematic of a cross section of a $9 + 0$ cilium that lacks motility-related structures. (D) TEM of a cross section of a *Chlamydomonas* flagellum (courtesy of Stefan Geimer, University of Bayreuth, Germany). (E) Longitudinal section of the base of a *Chlamydomonas* flagellum visualized by TEM. The arrow points to the flagellar base. Abbreviations: bb, basal body; fla, flagella. From Mitchell *et al.* (2005) with permission. (F) DIC of a *Chlamydomonas* cell with two $9 + 2$ flagella. (G) Scanning EM of motile ($9 + 2$) tracheal cilia from a 4-week-old mouse (courtesy of Karl F. Lechtreck and George B. Witman, UMass Medical School, Worcester, MA). (H) Longitudinal section (TEM) of a primary cilium from a chicken chondrocyte showing the mother/distal centriole (Dc) and the daughter/proximal centriole (Pc). Arrow points to the transition fibers. Abbreviation: Em, extracellular matrix. Reprinted from Jensen *et al.* (2004) with permission. (I) SEM of ciliated renal epithelial cells from a kidney collecting tubule. Abbreviations: Ci, cilium; Mv, microvillus. From Kessel and Kardon (1979) with permission from Randy H. Kardon. (J) Immunofluorescence micrograph of a mouse NIH3T3 fibroblast stained with an antibody against detyrosinated α -tubulin to label the primary cilium (green) and with a p150^{Glu} antibody that labels the ciliary base (red). The nucleus is stained with DAPI (blue). Courtesy of Jacob M. Schröder, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, who also generated the completed figure.

hence designated “ $9 + 2$ ” cilia. The axoneme of $9 + 2$ cilia also contains accessory structures that are involved in motility, including outer and inner dynein arms, radial spokes, and central pair projections (Fig. 2.1A, B, and D). Sometimes $9 + 2$ cilia are found in multiple copies per cell, for example, on the surface of epithelial cells lining the airways (Fig. 2.1G), oviducts, and brain ventricles, where the concerted action of the organelles mediates

transport of fluids and substances across the epithelial surface. Single-celled organisms like *Tetrahymena* and *Paramecium* also contain multiple motile $9 + 2$ cilia on their surface, while mammalian sperm cells and the green alga *Chlamydomonas* contain one or two motile $9 + 2$ flagella, respectively (Fig. 2.1F). Motile cilia on single-celled organisms play an important role in cell motility (Ibanez-Tallon *et al.*, 2003; Rosenbaum and Witman, 2002; Satir and Christensen, 2006).

While $9 + 2$ cilia are the most commonly encountered type of motile cilia, there are examples of motile cilia that lack the central pair of MTs, for example, motile $9 + 0$ cilia on the nodal cells of developing mammalian embryos, which rotate vigorously in a manner that generates a directional flow across the node required for establishment of the left–right asymmetry axis (Hirokawa *et al.*, 2006). In addition, motile cilia with four central MTs ($9 + 4$ cilia) have been identified on the notochordal plate of rabbit embryos, suggesting that there is some degree of variation in axonemal structure of motile cilia (Feistel and Blum, 2006).

Nonmotile (primary) cilia typically contain a $9 + 0$ axoneme, but lack outer and inner dynein arms and other accessory structures involved in motility (Fig. 2.1C and H–J). One exception to this canonical $9 + 0$ structure is the mature kinocilium of hair cells in the inner ear, which contains a $9 + 2$ axoneme, but is considered to be nonmotile (Dabdoub and Kelley, 2005). Specialized sensory $9 + 0$ cilia in the vertebrate olfactory organs as well as the outer segment of vertebrate photoreceptor rod and cone cells, which develops as an extension of a primary cilium, also display an atypical axonemal structure in that the distal region of the axoneme consists of extended singlet A MT subfibers, similar to neuronal sensory cilia of nematodes (Insinna and Besharse, 2008; Reese, 1965).

In addition to specialized primary cilia of sensory organs, primary $9 + 0$ cilia are present in a single copy of almost all other cell types in vertebrate organisms when these cells are in growth arrest (see <http://www.bowserlab.org/primarycilia/ciliumpage2.html> for a comprehensive listing of cells with primary cilia), but despite a near ubiquitous presence in vertebrates and although they were discovered over a century ago, primary cilia were, until recently, considered vestigial organelles with no important function. However, a number of key discoveries during the past decade have dramatically changed this view and it is now well established that primary cilia are indispensable sensory organelles involved in coordinating and regulating a variety of crucial cellular and developmental processes (Christensen *et al.*, 2007; Davenport and Yoder, 2005; Eggenschwiler and Anderson, 2007; Pazour and Witman, 2003). The first two key discoveries leading to this “renaissance” of the primary cilium were the discovery of IFT in *Chlamydomonas* by Kozminski *et al.* (1993) and a study by Cole *et al.* (1998), demonstrating that *Chlamydomonas* IFT particle polypeptides are homologous to proteins required for sensory cilia biogenesis in nematodes (Perkins *et al.*, 1986). These two studies provided the foundation for Pazour and

coworkers who showed in 2000 that the mouse ortholog of one of the *Chlamydomonas* IFT particle polypeptides (IFT88/Tg737) is required for primary cilia formation in the kidney, and that failure to assemble these cilia leads to autosomal recessive polycystic kidney disease (Pazour *et al.*, 2000). Finally, work by Barr, Pazour, Yoder, and colleagues on the autosomal dominant kidney disease-associated gene products polycystin-1 and polycystin-2 revealed that these proteins are localized to sensory cilia in *Caenorhabditis elegans* (Barr and Sternberg, 1999) as well as kidney primary cilia in the mouse (Pazour *et al.*, 2002; Yoder *et al.*, 2002) providing a link between IFT and polycystin-mediated signaling. While these studies were instrumental in defining a role for IFT and primary cilia in sensory signaling and mammalian health and disease, they also spurred an immense increase in primary cilia research, eventually leading to the realization that primary cilia are indispensable sensory organelles involved in coordinating and regulating a variety of crucial cellular and developmental signaling pathways, including the polycystin, Sonic hedgehog (Shh), platelet-derived growth factor receptor (PDGFR) α , and Wnt signaling pathways (Christensen *et al.*, 2007; Davenport and Yoder, 2005; Eggenschwiler and Anderson, 2007; Pazour and Witman, 2003). Consequently, defects in the assembly or function of primary cilia can cause a plethora of diseases and developmental defects, which, along with disorders resulting from dysfunctional motile cilia, are now collectively known as “ciliopathies.” The ciliopathies, which include cystic kidney and liver diseases, retinal degeneration, polydactyly, left–right patterning defects, obesity, airway disease, hydrocephalus, male and female infertility, and Kartagener, Joubert, Bardet-Biedl, Senior-Løken, and Meckel-Gruber syndromes (MKS), have been described in several recent reviews (Badano *et al.*, 2006; Fliegauf *et al.*, 2007; Ibanez-Tallon *et al.*, 2003; Pan *et al.*, 2005; Pazour and Rosenbaum, 2002) and will not be dwelled upon extensively here. Another exciting topic in cilia research, namely the role of cilia in cell cycle regulation and cancer, has also recently been reviewed in detail elsewhere (Pan and Snell, 2007; Plotnikova *et al.*, 2008; Quarmby and Parker, 2005; Santos and Reiter, 2008) and will therefore not be covered extensively here.

In this review, we focus on the mechanisms by which cilia are assembled and maintained, with particular emphasis on the molecular mechanisms and functions of IFT (Kozminski *et al.*, 1993), a process required for the assembly and maintenance of almost all eukaryotic cilia and flagella (Rosenbaum and Witman, 2002). We first provide a general description of IFT, from its initial discovery to the identification and characterization of individual IFT motor subunits and IFT particle polypeptides. Next, we discuss the mechanisms by which proteins are selectively targeted to the ciliary compartment with particular emphasis on the function and composition of the ciliary transition zone. Finally, we briefly review the role of IFT in cilia-mediated signaling, including how IFT is directly involved in moving signaling moieties within the cilium and between the ciliary compartment and the cytoplasm.

2. EARLY EVENTS IN CILIOGENESIS

The ciliary axoneme is assembled onto a basal body, which is derived from a centriole, and ciliogenesis is therefore tightly coupled to centriole duplication and maturation. In multiciliated, differentiated mammalian epithelial cells, centrioles are formed en masse from a fibrogranular assembly site and centriole production is usually independent of pre-existing centrioles, but related to differentiation. These centrioles undergo a complex and poorly understood maturation process and migrate to the ciliary assembly site, possibly by interacting with the actin cytoskeleton and proteins of the planar cell polarity (PCP) pathway (Dawe *et al.*, 2007a; Dirksen, 1991; Park *et al.*, 2008).

In proliferating cells that will form a primary cilium, ciliogenesis is tightly coupled to the cell cycle (Fig. 2.2). Ciliogenesis is initiated in G1 by the addition of Golgi-derived vesicles to the distal end of the mother centriole, and the axoneme begins to elongate within this membrane-bound compartment (Sorokin, 1962). As ciliogenesis proceeds, the axoneme continues to elongate from its distal end (Johnson and Rosenbaum, 1992) and the mother centriole-associated membrane vesicle grows by recruitment of additional Golgi-derived vesicles (Sorokin, 1962). Concomitant with docking of the mature mother centriole/basal body onto the ciliary assembly site at the apical end of the cell, the mother centriole-associated membrane vesicle fuses with the plasma membrane of the cell thereby forming a membrane sheath around the emerging ciliary axoneme that is separated from the plasma membrane of the cell by the ciliary necklace (Sorokin, 1962). Elongation of the membrane-bound axoneme is mediated by IFT (Rosenbaum and Witman, 2002). However, in a few cases, for example, in *Drosophila* sperm cells, assembly of the ciliary axoneme takes place in the cytoplasm by an IFT-independent mechanism (Han *et al.*, 2003), but this type of assembly will not be discussed further here.

New (daughter) centrioles are made from pre-existing (mother) centrioles in the S phase of the cell cycle and reach their mature length during late G2/M (Fig. 2.2; Azimzadeh and Bornens, 2007; Pan and Snell, 2007). When cells are in G1, the mother centriole is distinguished from the daughter centriole by the presence of two sets of nine appendages at its distal end termed distal and subdistal appendages, respectively. The subdistal appendages are thought to be required for anchoring of MTs at the mother centriole while the distal appendages are thought to be involved in the docking of the mother centriole/basal body to the apical cell membrane early in ciliogenesis. After basal body docking, these distal appendages constitute the transition fibers that link the basal body to the ciliary membrane/ciliary necklace (Paintrand *et al.*, 1992), that is, the fibers proposed to be constituents of a ciliary pore complex (Rosenbaum and Witman, 2002).

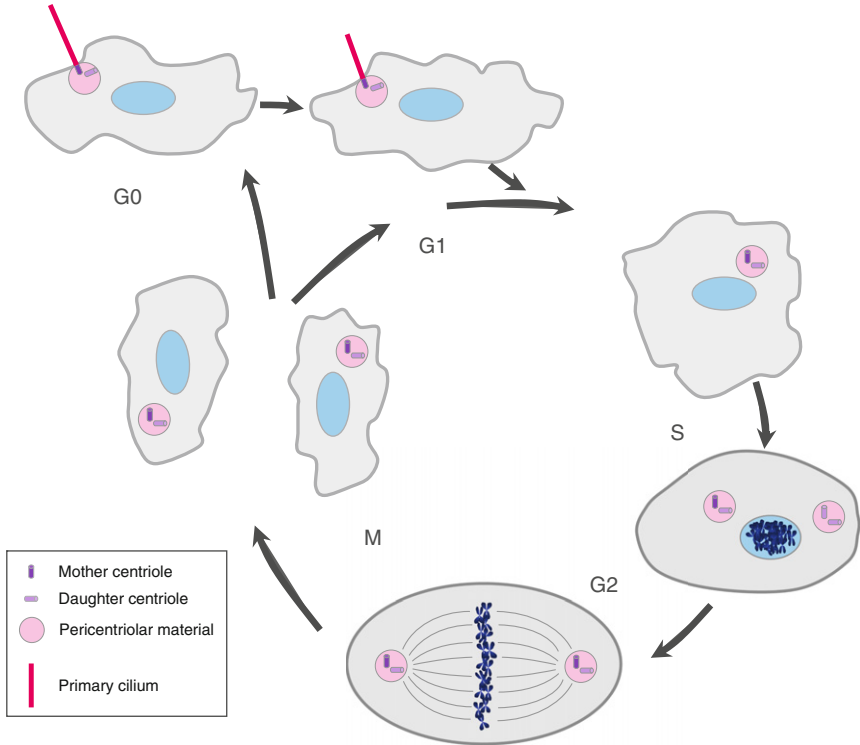


Figure 2.2 Assembly and disassembly of primary cilia are coordinated with the cell cycle. The primary cilium is formed in G1/G0 following docking of the mother centriole at the ciliary assembly site at the apical plasma membrane. Cilium elongation is mediated by IFT-dependent addition of ciliary precursors to the distal end of the mother centriole, which at this point is termed a basal body. Disassembly of the cilium prior to mitosis allows both centriole pairs to function in mitotic spindle formation.

3. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF INTRAFLAGELLAR TRANSPORT

Since cilia and flagella lack the machinery for *de novo* protein synthesis, and since the axoneme assembles from and continuously turns over at its distal tip (Johnson and Rosenbaum, 1992; Marshall and Rosenbaum, 2001), compartmentalized ciliary assembly and maintenance relies on the constant delivery of axonemal precursors from their site of synthesis in the cell body to the axonemal assembly site at the ciliary tip, a process that is mediated by IFT (Rosenbaum and Witman, 2002).

IFT is a bidirectional MT-based motility process during which groups of large protein complexes (IFT particles) are transported along the axonemal outer doublet MTs from the base of the cilium to its distal tip by

kinesin-2 motors and then from the tip back to the cell body by cytoplasmic dynein 2 (Kozminski *et al.*, 1993, 1995; Pazour *et al.*, 1999; Porter *et al.*, 1999). During anterograde (base to tip) IFT, axonemal precursor proteins associate with the IFT machinery, which ferries the precursors to the axonemal assembly site at the ciliary tip where precursors are unloaded for assembly. Following unloading of axonemal building blocks at the ciliary tip, the “empty” IFT particles bind to axonemal turn over products, which are then transported back to the cell body (retrogradely) for recycling (Qin *et al.*, 2004; Fig. 2.3).

Much of our current knowledge about IFT stems from pioneering work in the biflagellate green alga *Chlamydomonas* (Cole *et al.*, 1998; Kozminski *et al.*, 1993, 1995), which remains an excellent model organism in which to study IFT, primarily because the flagella can be easily isolated and purified (Witman *et al.*, 1972), the *Chlamydomonas* genome sequence (Merchant *et al.*, 2007), flagellar proteome (Pazour *et al.*, 2005), and flagellar transcriptome (Stolc *et al.*, 2005) are known, a large number of IFT mutants are available (Cole, 2003), and IFT can be visualized *in vivo* without the aid of fluorescently tagged proteins (Kozminski *et al.*, 1993). Nevertheless, since the discovery of IFT in *Chlamydomonas* in 1993 (Kozminski *et al.*, 1993), studies in other ciliated model organisms such as *C. elegans*, *Tetrahymena*, trypanosomes, zebrafish, and the mouse have contributed significantly to our understanding of the molecular mechanisms and functions of IFT in various cellular and developmental contexts. These studies have shown that IFT is a highly conserved process required for the assembly and maintenance of almost all eukaryotic cilia and flagella, and that mutations leading to defective IFT can result in the development of severe diseases (ciliopathies) and developmental defects (Badano *et al.*, 2006; Fliegauf *et al.*, 2007; Pan *et al.*, 2005; Pazour and Rosenbaum, 2002; Sloboda, 2002; see also Section 1). Since IFT is required for assembly of the cilium proper (Rosenbaum and Witman, 2002), which in turn functions as a repository for receptors and other signaling proteins involved in controlling important cellular and developmental processes (Christensen *et al.*, 2007; Eggenschwiler and Anderson, 2007), some of the malignancies arising from defective IFT may result from the mere lack of an appropriate structure, the cilium, to harbor and coordinate specific signaling pathways. However, there is growing evidence indicating that IFT also participates *directly* in cilia-mediated signaling processes, for example, Shh signaling during vertebrate development (Eggenschwiler and Anderson, 2007) and cGMP-dependent signaling during mating in *Chlamydomonas* (Wang *et al.*, 2006), a topic that will be discussed in Section 12.

4. DISCOVERY AND EVOLUTION OF IFT

IFT was first observed by enhanced digital interference contrast (DIC) microscopy of immobilized *Chlamydomonas* flagella as a continuous, nonsaltatory movement of granular particles (IFT particles), which were seen

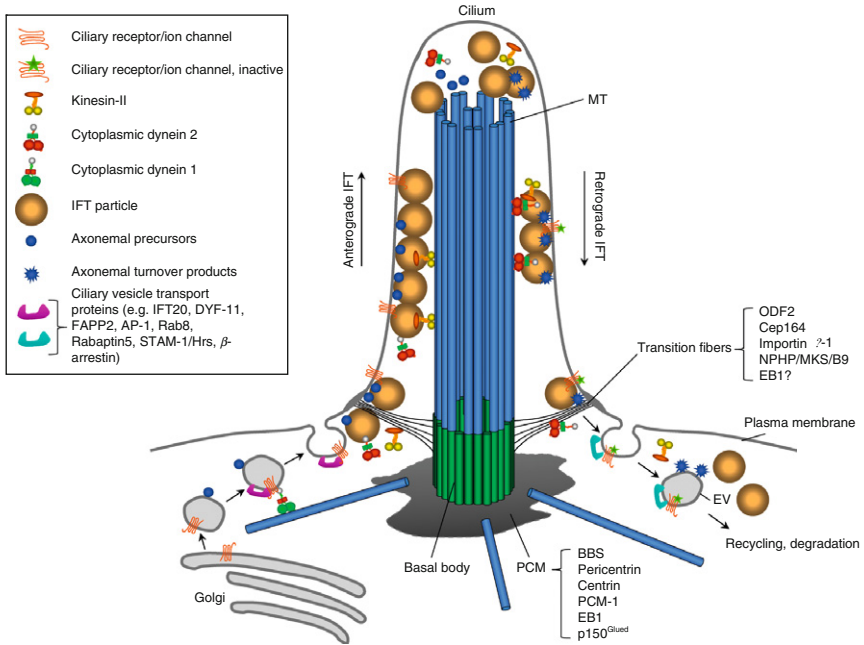


Figure 2.3 IFT and targeting of proteins to the ciliary compartment. Proteins destined for the ciliary compartment (membrane proteins as well as axonemal components) are transported in Golgi-derived vesicles to the base of the cilium where the vesicles are exocytosed and the ciliary proteins associate with IFT particles. This Golgi-to-cilium-mediated vesicle transport, which is proposed to involve cytoplasmic dynein 1 MT-based movement, depends on the IFT complex B proteins IFT20 and DYF-11, the small G protein Rab8 and associated GEFs (e.g., Rabin 8, Rabaptin 5), FAPP2, and adapter proteins such as AP-1. BBS proteins and other proteins localized in the pericentrosomal region (e.g., PCM-1, EB1, p150^{Glued}) may provide a link between the Golgi-derived vesicles and the transition fibers at the ciliary base and may also serve to anchor MTs at the basal body. At the ciliary base, only proteins (or protein complexes) containing specific ciliary targeting motifs are allowed access through the zone defined by the transition fibers. Selective entry of proteins into the ciliary compartment probably involves specific G proteins and GEFs that are associated with NPHPs, MKS, and B9 domain-containing proteins. Following entry into the ciliary compartment, these proteins, along with inactive cytoplasmic dynein 2, are transported anterogradely along the axoneme by kinesin-II-mediated IFT. At the ciliary tip IFT particles are remodeled, kinesin-II inactivated, and cytoplasmic dynein 2 activated. Ciliary turnover products (e.g., inactive receptors) are, in turn, transported retrogradely along ciliary axonemes by cytoplasmic dynein 2 for recycling or degradation in the cytoplasm. Recycling or turnover of ciliary membrane receptors may involve ubiquitination (e.g., via BBS proteins) and/or dephosphorylation of the receptors as well as binding to endosomal vesicle adapter proteins such as STAM-1/Hrs (Bae and Barr, 2008) or β -arrestin (Kovacs *et al.*, 2008). Figure based on references (Azimzadeh and Bornens, 2007; Leroux, 2007; Rosenbaum and Witman, 2002) as well as references cited in the text. *Abbreviations:* EV, endocytic vesicle; MT, microtubule; PCM, pericentriolar material. Figure generated by Jacob M. Schröder, University of Copenhagen.

to move bidirectionally underneath the flagellar membrane at *ca.* 2 $\mu\text{m/s}$ in the anterograde direction and at *ca.* 3.5 $\mu\text{m/s}$ in the retrograde direction (Kozminski *et al.*, 1993). Studies using GFP-tagged IFT particle polypeptides or motor subunits have demonstrated similar, but sometimes faster, movement of IFT particles in cilia from a variety of other cell types and organisms, including neuronal sensory cilia in *C. elegans* (Orozco *et al.*, 1999), primary cilia of cultured IMCD and LLC-PK1 kidney cells (Follit *et al.*, 2006; Tran *et al.*, 2008), and motile flagella of *Trypanosoma brucei* (Absalon *et al.*, 2008), indicating that IFT is conserved among ciliated organisms.

By using correlative light microscopy and transmission electron microscopy (TEM) of *Chlamydomonas* flagella, Kozminski *et al.* (1995) demonstrated that the IFT particles seen to move in the DIC consist of linear arrays of lollipop-shaped structures that are connected to both the axonemal outer doublet B MTs and the flagellar membrane (Fig. 2.4). Furthermore, immunogold EM using antibodies directed against IFT particle polypeptides and motor subunits provided conclusive evidence that these lollipop-shaped structures indeed are IFT particles (Pedersen *et al.*, 2006; Sloboda and Howard, 2007).

Consistent with a conserved role for IFT in ciliary assembly and maintenance (Cole *et al.*, 1998; Perkins *et al.*, 1986), comparative genomics studies have shown that the genes encoding IFT particle polypeptides or motor subunits are highly conserved among ciliated eukaryotes, but absent from nonciliated organisms such as higher plants and fungi (Avidor-Reiss *et al.*, 2004; Li *et al.*, 2004). In addition, bioinformatic analysis of IFT particle polypeptide sequences indicated that these polypeptides display similarities to components of coat protein I (COPI) and clathrin-coated vesicles, leading to the hypothesis that IFT evolved as a specialized form of coated vesicle transport from a protocoatome complex (Jekely and Arendt, 2006).

Most of the genes coding for IFT particle polypeptides or motor subunits have now been cloned and characterized in several different organisms and, as will be discussed below, analyses of individual IFT components have provided significant insight into the molecular mechanisms and functions of IFT, although important questions still remain to be answered. For example, how individual IFT components interact and are regulated in different organisms and under diverse physiological conditions is only now beginning to be elucidated.



5. THE CANONICAL ANTEROGRADE IFT MOTOR

The canonical motor for anterograde IFT is a heterotrimeric complex belonging to the kinesin-2 family. This kinesin-2 complex, which hereafter will be referred to as kinesin-II, was first purified from sea urchin eggs and

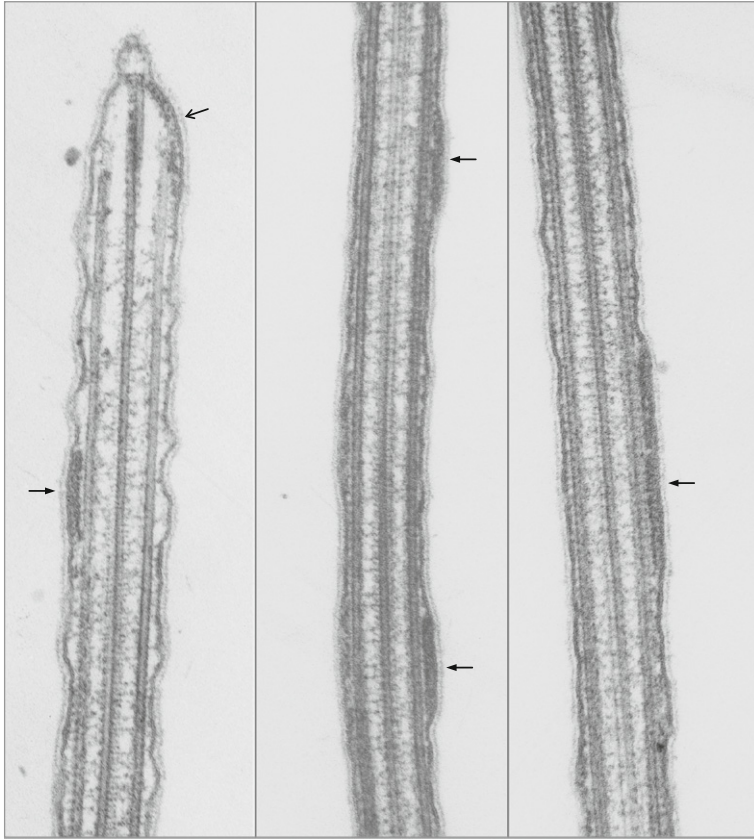


Figure 2.4 Images of IFT particles. The figure shows TEMs of longitudinal sections of *Chlamydomonas* flagella. Groups of IFT particles of variable size (closed arrows) are observed between the outer doublet B MTs and the flagellar membrane. Open arrow shows electron-dense IFT material near the flagellar tip. Courtesy of Stefan Geimer, University of Bayreuth, Germany.

consists of two motor subunits of 90 and 85 kDa, respectively, and a 100 kDa nonmotor subunit (Cole *et al.*, 1992, 1993; Scholey, 2003). In vertebrates, the 90 and 85 kDa motor subunits are termed KIF3A and KIF3B, respectively, whereas the 100 kDa nonmotor subunit is called kinesin-associated protein (KAP; Scholey, 2003). The *Chlamydomonas* orthologs of these subunits are termed FLA10 (KIF3A ortholog), FLA8 (KIF3B ortholog), and FLA3 (KAP ortholog), respectively (Table 2.1; Kozminski *et al.*, 1995; Miller *et al.*, 2005; Mueller *et al.*, 2005; Walther *et al.*, 1994). Analysis of a *Chlamydomonas* mutant, *fla10^{ts}*, which harbors a temperature-sensitive mutation in the *FLA10* gene (Adams *et al.*, 1982; Huang *et al.*, 1977; Walther *et al.*, 1994), first indicated that kinesin-II is

Table 2.1 Components of the IFT machinery

IFT polypeptide	Chlamydomonas	C. elegans	H. sapiens
<i>Kinesin-2</i>			
Heterotrimeric	FLA10	KRP85/ KLP-20	KIF3A
	FLA8	KRP95/ KLP-11	KIF3B
	FLA3	KAP/KAP-1	KAP
Homodimeric	?	OSM-3	KIF17
<i>Cytoplasmic dynein 2</i>			
	DHC1b	CHE-3	DYNC2H1/ DHC2
	D1bLIC	D2LIC/ XBX-1	DYNC2LI1/ D2LIC
	FAP133	?	WD34
	LC8/FLA14	?	?
<i>Complex A</i>			
IFT144	FAP66	DYF-2	WDR19
IFT140	IFT140	CHE-11	IFT140
IFT139	FAP60	ZK328.7	THM-1
IFT122A	XP_001700201.1	DAF-10	IFT122/ WDR10
IFT122B	IFT122B	IFTA-1	WDR35
IFT43	FAP118	?	?
<i>Complex B</i>			
IFT172	IFT172	OSM-1	IFT172
IFT88	IFT88	OSM-5	IFT88/Polaris
IFT81	IFT81	F32A6.2	IFT81
IFT80	IFT80	CHE-2	IFT80
IFT74/72	IFT74/72	C18H9.8	IFT74/72
IFT57	IFT57	CHE-13	IFT57/Hippi
IFT52	IFT52	OSM-6	IFT52/NGD5
IFT46	IFT46	DYF-6	C11orf60
IFT27	IFT27	?	RABL4
IFT20	IFT20	Y110A7A.20	IFT20
<i>New putative IFT proteins</i>			
	FAP259	DYF-1	TPR30A
	FAP22	DYF-3	CLUAP1
	XM_001698717.1	DYF-13	TTC26
	FAP116	DYF-11	MIP-T3

Data were obtained from GenBank and from the following references: Absalon *et al.* (2008), Blacque *et al.* (2006, 2008), Cole (2003), Li *et al.* (2008), Omori *et al.* (2008), Pazour *et al.* (2005), Pfister *et al.* (2005), Rompolas *et al.* (2007), Scholey (2003), Tran *et al.* (2008), and Tsao and Gorovsky (2008b).

required for anterograde IFT, because when mutant cells were placed at the restrictive temperature of 32 °C, IFT ceased and the flagella began to shorten. Furthermore, when the *fla10^{ts}* cells were placed at 32 °C and deflagellated, new flagella failed to form, indicating that kinesin-II and IFT are required for both assembly and maintenance of the flagella (Kozminski *et al.*, 1995). Subsequent studies in sea urchin, mouse, *Tetrahymena* and *Drosophila* showed that inactivation of kinesin-II similarly abolished ciliary assembly in these organisms (Brown *et al.*, 1999; Marszalek *et al.*, 1999; Morris and Scholey, 1997; Nonaka *et al.*, 1998; Sarpal *et al.*, 2003; Takeda *et al.*, 1999), whereas inactivation of kinesin-II in *C. elegans* prevented global ciliary assembly only when the homodimeric kinesin-2 motor OSM-3 was simultaneously inhibited, owing to partial redundancy between OSM-3 and kinesin-II in building specific subsets of sensory cilia of this organism (Scholey, 2008; Snow *et al.*, 2004). However, careful observations and measurements of motility rates of *C. elegans* kinesin-II subunits and IFT particle polypeptides, both *in vivo* and *in vitro*, demonstrated that kinesin-II indeed powers anterograde IFT in this organism (Orozco *et al.*, 1999; Ou *et al.*, 2005a; Pan *et al.*, 2006; Snow *et al.*, 2004). Such studies, along with genetic and biochemical studies in vertebrates, have also begun to shed light on the mechanisms by which kinesin-II is regulated (Burghoorn *et al.*, 2007; Pan *et al.*, 2006; Pedersen *et al.*, 2008; Scholey, 2008), a topic that will be dealt with in more detail in Section 10.

In summary, the available results suggest that heterotrimeric kinesin-II functions as the core anterograde IFT motor in virtually all ciliary systems studied to date. However, as will be discussed below, additional kinesins such as homodimeric kinesin-2 as well as other kinesin family members may cooperate with kinesin-II in the assembly of specific subsets of cilia to generate ciliary structural and functional diversity.

6. ADDITIONAL KINESIN MOTORS INVOLVED IN CILIOGENESIS

In *C. elegans* homodimeric kinesin-2 appears to cooperate with kinesin-II during anterograde IFT to mediate assembly of specific subsets of sensory cilia (Scholey, 2008; Snow *et al.*, 2004), and there is growing evidence suggesting that the deployment of “accessory” kinesins during ciliogenesis is not limited to *C. elegans* and homodimeric kinesin-2. In fact, numerous kinesins have been detected in cilia from diverse species, and some of these have been implicated in cilia assembly and maintenance, either by functioning cooperatively with kinesin-II during anterograde IFT to promote axonemal assembly, by affecting axonemal turnover and disassembly, or by transporting specific receptors and ion channels to the

ciliary membrane (Scholey, 2008). Here, we will provide a brief description of “accessory” kinesins with putative roles in IFT and/or transport of ciliary membrane proteins, namely homodimeric kinesin-2, kinesin-3, and kinesin-16 family members. For detailed descriptions of homodimeric kinesin-2 and other ciliary kinesins, see Blacque *et al.* (2008) and Scholey (2008).

A role for homodimeric kinesin-2 in IFT and cilia biogenesis was first discovered in *C. elegans* (Shakir *et al.*, 1993; Signor *et al.*, 1999b), where genetic and motility studies later revealed that the homodimeric kinesin-2 motor OSM-3 functions redundantly with heterotrimeric kinesin-2 to build the middle axonemal segment of amphid channel cilia, which consists of doublet MTs, whereas OSM-3 alone mediates assembly of the singlet MTs that constitute the distal segment of the axoneme (Snow *et al.*, 2004). In frogs, the olfactory cilia similarly contain a long segment of singlet MTs at their distal end (Reese, 1965), and biophysical measurements have indicated that cyclic nucleotide-gated channels (CNGs) are highly enriched at this site (Flannery *et al.*, 2006). It is likely that this localization of CNGs is related to homodimeric kinesin-2-mediated assembly of distal singlet axonemal MTs, because in rodents the OSM-3 homolog KIF17 has been implicated in the transport of CNGs to the olfactory cilia (Jenkins *et al.*, 2006). Furthermore, a recent study showed that morpholino-mediated knockdown of KIF17 in zebrafish inhibited the formation of photoreceptor outer segments, which essentially are modified primary cilia, and which also contain extended distal singlet axonemal MTs like *C. elegans* amphid channel and frog olfactory cilia. Importantly, the assembly of sensory cilia in the zebrafish pronephros was unaffected by KIF17 knockdown, suggesting that KIF17 plays a specific role in the assembly of cilia with extended distal singlet MTs (Insinna *et al.*, 2008).

Members of the kinesin-3 and kinesin-16 families may also be involved in ciliary transport of specific membrane proteins. In *C. elegans*, the kinesin-3 family member KLP-6 is required for ciliary localization of the polycystin-2 calcium channel that controls male mating behavior in this organism (Peden and Barr, 2005). Furthermore, an extensive phylogenetic analysis of kinesins indicated that kinesin-16 family members, as well as other kinesin subfamilies such as kinesin-17, are specific to ciliated organisms (Wickstead and Gull, 2006). Humans contain six putative kinesin-3 family members and one kinesin-16 member (KIF12; Wickstead and Gull, 2006), and preliminary results indicate that at least one of the kinesin-3 proteins, KIF13A, as well as KIF12 localize to primary cilia in diverse cultured human cells and native human embryonic tissue (S. K. Nielsen, R. I. Thorsteinsson, S. T. Christensen, and L. B. Pedersen, unpublished data). While the functional implications of these observations are still to be determined, it is of interest that KIF12 was shown to be a polycystic kidney disease modifier in the cpk mouse hinting at a possible ciliary function for this protein (Mrug *et al.*, 2005). Moreover, murine KIF13A associates directly with the AP-1 adaptor complex during transport of mannose-6-phosphate receptor-containing vesicles from the Golgi to the

plasma membrane in various cultured cell types (Nakagawa *et al.*, 2000), and in *C. elegans* AP-1 has been implicated in ciliary transport of calcium channels and odorant receptors (Bae *et al.*, 2006; Dwyer *et al.*, 2001). Therefore we hypothesize that KIF13A and KIF12, possibly in conjunction with AP-1, are involved in targeting specific receptors and/or ion channels to the ciliary membrane in vertebrate cells. Whether such targeting occurs independently or in cooperation with kinesin-II, as observed for OSM-3 in *C. elegans* (Snow *et al.*, 2004), will be interesting to investigate.

7. THE RETROGRADE IFT MOTOR

The motor that powers retrograde IFT is an isoform of cytoplasmic dynein called cytoplasmic dynein 2 (previously known as cytoplasmic dynein 1b; Pfister *et al.*, 2005). This motor complex consists of at least four different subunits: a heavy chain termed DYNC2H1 that belongs to the AAA+ family of ATPases, a light intermediate chain (DYNC2LI1), a light chain (LC8), and a recently identified putative intermediate chain (IC)/WD repeat protein, which may be specific for motile cilia (Table 2.1; Pfister *et al.*, 2005; Rompolas *et al.*, 2007). The cytoplasmic dynein 2 motor subunit, DYNC2H1, was originally identified as a dynein heavy chain whose synthesis is induced by deciliation in sea urchin embryos (Gibbons *et al.*, 1994), and subsequent genetic and motility studies, primarily in *Chlamydomonas* and *C. elegans*, demonstrated that DYNC2H1 is essential for retrograde IFT. Thus null mutations in the gene encoding DYNC2H1 in these organisms led to cessation of retrograde IFT and formation of stunted cilia containing large accumulations of IFT particles, implying that transport of IFT particles out of the cilia was impaired (Pazour *et al.*, 1999; Porter *et al.*, 1999; Signor *et al.*, 1999a). In mammals, DYNC2H1 was found to localize to cilia in the brain and photoreceptors (Mikami *et al.*, 2002), and mutational inactivation of the corresponding gene led to the formation of stunted, bulbous cilia in the neuroectoderm, limb mesenchyme, and ventral node of developing mouse embryos (Huangfu and Anderson, 2005; May *et al.*, 2005). These mutant cilia are thus similar in appearance to the stunted cilia filled with IFT particles that were observed in *Chlamydomonas* mutants lacking DYNC2H1 (Pazour *et al.*, 1999; Porter *et al.*, 1999), indicating that the role of DYNC2H1 in retrograde IFT is conserved in mammals.

The DYNC2LI1 subunit of the cytoplasmic dynein 2 complex has been studied in several organisms, including *Chlamydomonas*, *C. elegans*, and mouse, and as for DYNC2H1, genetic and motility studies clearly demonstrated a requirement for this protein in retrograde IFT (Grissom *et al.*, 2002; Hou *et al.*, 2004; Perrone *et al.*, 2003; Rana *et al.*, 2004; Schafer *et al.*, 2003).

Furthermore, biochemical analyses of DYNC2LI1 from *Chlamydomonas* flagella demonstrated that DYNC2LI1 and DYNC2H1 are part of the same complex (Perrone *et al.*, 2003; Rompolas *et al.*, 2007), a complex that also contains LC8 and a recently identified WD repeat protein called FAP133 (Rompolas *et al.*, 2007). A *Chlamydomonas* mutant, *fla14*, that is defective in the gene encoding LC8 displays a phenotype consistent with defective retrograde IFT (Pazour *et al.*, 1998), and siRNA-mediated knock-down of the gene encoding the FAP133 homolog in trypanosomes resulted in flagellar dysfunction, suggesting that FAP133 may also be required for retrograde IFT (Baron *et al.*, 2007). However, the precise function of individual subunits of the cytoplasmic dynein 2 complex during retrograde IFT is still unclear. Moreover, it is possible that the complex contains additional subunits that have not yet been characterized in detail. For example, XBX-2, which contains a domain characteristic for dynein light chains of the Tctex-1 family, has been shown to undergo IFT in *C. elegans* sensory cilia (Efimenko *et al.*, 2005), but its ciliary function and relationship with the cytoplasmic dynein 2 complex are not known. However, given the large number of light chains that are involved in assembly and regulation of other dynein motor complexes, for example, outer arm dynein in *Chlamydomonas* flagella (King, 2003), it is plausible that cytoplasmic dynein 2 similarly contains multiple light chains involved in the assembly and function of the motor complex.

8. IFT PARTICLE POLYPEPTIDES

By taking advantage of the *fla10^{ts}* mutant that harbors a temperature-sensitive mutation in the gene encoding the FLA10 motor subunit of kinesin-II (Adams *et al.*, 1982; Huang *et al.*, 1977; Walther *et al.*, 1994), IFT particle polypeptides were originally isolated from *Chlamydomonas* flagella using sucrose density gradient centrifugation and were found to consist of two separate complexes, termed A and B, containing six and ten subunits, respectively (Table 2.1; Cole *et al.*, 1998; Piperno and Mead, 1997). Genetic, motility, and bioinformatic studies in *C. elegans* subsequently led to the identification of three additional putative IFT particle polypeptides (DYF-1, DYF-3, DYF-13; Blacque *et al.*, 2005; Murayama *et al.*, 2005; Ou *et al.*, 2005a,b), and RNAi-based approaches in trypanosomes recently confirmed a role for these proteins in flagellar biogenesis (Absalon *et al.*, 2008). Homologues of DYF-1, DYF-3, and DYF-13 are also present in *Chlamydomonas* (Absalon *et al.*, 2008; Blacque *et al.*, 2008; Pazour *et al.*, 2005), but were not identified during initial purification of IFT particle polypeptides from *Chlamydomonas* flagella (Cole *et al.*, 1998; Piperno and Mead, 1997). However, genetic, motility, and RNAi-based

studies in *C. elegans* and trypanosomes suggest that these three proteins are part of complex B (Absalon *et al.*, 2008; Blacque *et al.*, 2005; Murayama *et al.*, 2005; Ou *et al.*, 2005a,b), indicating that they may dissociate from the complex during sucrose density gradient centrifugation of *Chlamydomonas* flagella extracts, as has been observed for the complex B polypeptide IFT172 (Pedersen *et al.*, 2005). Yet another putative complex B polypeptide, DYF-11, was recently identified by two separate groups (Li *et al.*, 2008; Omori *et al.*, 2008), bringing the total number of likely complex B polypeptides to 14 (Table 2.1).

The genes for all known IFT particle polypeptides have now been cloned and sequenced in multiple organisms, including *Chlamydomonas*, *C. elegans*, *Tetrahymena*, *Drosophila*, trypanosomes, zebrafish, mouse, and human (Table 2.1; Absalon *et al.*, 2008; Blacque *et al.*, 2008; Cole, 2003; Li *et al.*, 2008; Omori *et al.*, 2008; Pedersen *et al.*, 2008; Tran *et al.*, 2008; Tsao and Gorovsky, 2008b). The corresponding amino acid sequences of IFT particle polypeptides are characterized by an abundance of motifs known to be involved in protein–protein interaction, including WD repeats, TPR repeats, and coiled coils (Cole, 2003). As mentioned previously, these features may reflect an evolutionary relationship of IFT particle polypeptides with components of COPI and clathrin-coated vesicles (Jekely and Arendt, 2006), and are also consistent with a role for IFT particle proteins in transport of ciliary precursors and turn over products (Qin *et al.*, 2004). The challenge now is to determine the function of individual IFT particle polypeptides, how they interact with each other as well as with motors and cargo proteins, and how these interactions are regulated. As will be described below, significant strides have been made in terms of elucidating the functions of individual IFT polypeptides, but much still remains to be learned about their interactions and regulation.

9. FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF IFT PARTICLE POLYPEPTIDES: DISTINCT ROLES OF IFT COMPLEXES A AND B

The first direct evidence demonstrating that IFT particle proteins are required for cilia assembly was provided by a combination of biochemical analyses of *Chlamydomonas* flagella and genetic studies in *C. elegans*. Thus, when IFT particle polypeptides were first isolated and sequenced from *Chlamydomonas* flagella, it was discovered that some of the IFT particle polypeptides are homologous to proteins encoded by genes that when mutated inhibit assembly of sensory cilia in *C. elegans* (Cole *et al.*, 1998; Perkins *et al.*, 1986). Using similar approaches, as well as motility- and RNAi-based methods, the function of almost all known IFT particle

polypeptides has now been studied in multiple organisms. These studies have shown that in general, complete loss of any complex B polypeptide almost invariably leads to inhibition of cilia assembly, leading to the notion that complex B is required for anterograde transport of axonemal precursors into the ciliary compartment (Absalon *et al.*, 2008; Beales *et al.*, 2007; Brazelton *et al.*, 2001; Brown *et al.*, 2003; Cole, 2003; Deane *et al.*, 2001; Follit *et al.*, 2006; Fujiwara *et al.*, 1999; Haycraft *et al.*, 2001, 2003; Houde *et al.*, 2006; Huangfu *et al.*, 2003; Kobayashi *et al.*, 2007; Li *et al.*, 2008; Omori *et al.*, 2008; Pathak *et al.*, 2007; Pazour *et al.*, 2000; Pedersen *et al.*, 2005; Perkins *et al.*, 1986; Qin *et al.*, 2001, 2007; Sun *et al.*, 2004; Tran *et al.*, 2008; Tsao and Gorovsky, 2008a; Tsujikawa and Malicki, 2004). This notion is further supported by recent data from *Chlamydomonas* indicating that the complex B protein IFT46 is specifically involved in transporting outer dynein arms into flagella (Hou *et al.*, 2007). In addition to IFT46, studies in which other IFT complex B proteins have been partially depleted or inactivated have led to assignment of specific functions for IFT172, IFT27, IFT20, and DYF-11/MIP-T3. Thus IFT172 appears to be required for regulating the transition from anterograde to retrograde IFT at the flagellar tip (Pedersen *et al.*, 2005; Tsao and Gorovsky, 2008a), IFT27 is a small G protein involved in cell cycle control (Qin *et al.*, 2007), whereas IFT20 and DYF-11/MIP-T3 play a role in transport of vesicles from the Golgi to the ciliary base (Follit *et al.*, 2006; Li *et al.*, 2008; Omori *et al.*, 2008; see also Chapter 5). Furthermore, chemical crosslinking and yeast two- and three-hybrid analyses have shown that IFT81 and IFT74/72 interact directly, forming a tetrameric complex that serves as a scaffold for the intact IFT complex B (Lucker *et al.*, 2005). The remaining subunit organization within complex B as well as interactions between complex B proteins and the remaining IFT constituents are not well characterized.

In contrast to complex B polypeptides, complex A polypeptides are not always essential for building the ciliary axoneme, but rather, seem to be important for retrograde IFT. For example, the *Chlamydomonas* ts mutants *fla15*, *fla16*, and *fla17*, which contain decreased amounts of complex A polypeptides in their flagella, are able to assemble flagella but display retrograde IFT phenotypes with accumulation of IFT complex B polypeptides at the flagellar tips (Iomini *et al.*, 2001; Piperno *et al.*, 1998). In addition, mutational inactivation of IFT140/CHE-11 or IFT122A/DAF-10 in *C. elegans* results in shortened cilia that accumulate complex B polypeptides at their distal end (Collet *et al.*, 1998; Perkins *et al.*, 1986; Qin *et al.*, 2001; Schafer *et al.*, 2003). Similar phenotypes were observed when these polypeptides were inactivated in *Tetrahymena* or trypanosomes (Absalon *et al.*, 2008; Tsao and Gorovsky, 2008b), or when IFT139/THM-1 was inactivated in the mouse (Tran *et al.*, 2008). In zebrafish auditory and olfactory organs, however, inactivation of IFT140 was reported to have little observable effect on cilia structure (Tsujikawa and Malicki, 2004). While the latter

result might indicate that IFT140 is dispensable for IFT, it is also possible that there is some degree of functional overlap/redundancy among different IFT polypeptides, such that if IFT140 is not essential for stability of complex A, the remaining polypeptides may be able to compensate for its loss to some extent.

In summary, the available evidence strongly suggests that complex B is required for anterograde IFT while complex A is required for retrograde IFT. There is some evidence in the literature suggesting that complex A may also play a role in anterograde IFT, but whether this is limited to a few cellular systems is presently unclear. In *C. elegans* evidence from motility studies have suggested that complex A associates with kinesin-II during anterograde IFT and that the kinesin-II-IFT A complex in turn is linked to OSM-3-IFT B complex via Bardet-Biedl syndrome (BBS) proteins (Blacque *et al.*, 2008; Ou *et al.*, 2005a; Scholey, 2008; Snow *et al.*, 2004). Furthermore, a *Chlamydomonas* IFT140 null mutant was reported to completely lack flagella, although the evidence was preliminary (Cole, 2003). Finally, gel filtration analysis of *Chlamydomonas* flagella extracts showed that complex A cofractionates with cytoplasmic dynein 2, and that this fraction also contains kinesin-II but not IFT complex B (Rompolas *et al.*, 2007). While these findings suggest that complex A may play a role in anterograde IFT in addition to functioning in retrograde IFT, as we have previously hypothesized (Pedersen *et al.*, 2006, 2008), it is also possible that IFT A complexes are simply cargoes during anterograde IFT, docked to the kinesin-II motor. More experimental data is required to distinguish between these possibilities.

10. REGULATION OF IFT

Immunolocalization studies in *Chlamydomonas* demonstrated that IFT particle polypeptides, motor subunits, and flagellar precursors are highly concentrated at the base of the flagella (Cole *et al.*, 1998; Pazour *et al.*, 1999; Qin *et al.*, 2004), specifically near the site where transition fibers contact the flagellar membrane (Deane *et al.*, 2001), suggesting that IFT is initiated by the gathering of IFT components and cargo proteins at this site. Active kinesin-II presumably associates with IFT complexes to which ciliary precursors and inactive cytoplasmic dynein 2 are bound, and transports these anterogradely along the ciliary axoneme toward the tip (Iomini *et al.*, 2001; Kozminski *et al.*, 1995; Pedersen *et al.*, 2006; Qin *et al.*, 2004; Walther *et al.*, 1994). At the tip, significant remodeling of the IFT complexes takes place, precursors are unloaded for assembly, kinesin-II is inactivated, IFT complexes are remodeled, and cytoplasmic dynein 2 becomes active. Following binding of active cytoplasmic dynein 2 to complex A,

complex B reassociates with A and, presumably, ciliary turn over products, whereafter cytoplasmic dynein 2 transports everything back to the cell body for recycling (Fig. 2.3; Iomini *et al.*, 2001; Pazour *et al.*, 1999; Pedersen *et al.*, 2006; Porter *et al.*, 1999; Qin *et al.*, 2004). Since both anterograde and retrograde IFT seemingly occur at a constant rate along the flagellar shaft (Kozminski *et al.*, 1993), with slight pauses at the base and tip (Iomini *et al.*, 2001), the main points of regulation of IFT are presumably at the ciliary base and tip.

Our knowledge of the mechanisms regulating IFT motor activity and loading and unloading of IFT cargo proteins at the ciliary base and tip is still very fragmentary, although some key players involved in various aspects of IFT regulation have been identified. First, regulation of ciliary length is influenced by the rates of anterograde IFT and ciliary disassembly (Marshall and Rosenbaum, 2001), and analysis of mutations or biochemical inhibitors that affect ciliary length have revealed a number of kinases as potential regulators of the kinesin-II activity. These include MAP kinases (Bengs *et al.*, 2005; Berman *et al.*, 2003; Burghoorn *et al.*, 2007), NIMA-related kinases (Shalom *et al.*, 2008; Surpili *et al.*, 2003; White and Quarmby, 2008), GSK-3 β (Wilson and Lefebvre, 2004) and associated polarity proteins (Pedersen *et al.*, 2008), which may modulate kinesin-II motor activity via phosphorylation. Second, kinesin-II activity may be regulated via conformational changes in the KAP subunit since KAP is required for localization of kinesin-II at the flagellar base and for processive movement of the motor complex along flagella in *Chlamydomonas* (Mueller *et al.*, 2005; Scholey, 2008). Third, polyglutamylation of axonemal tubulin, mediated by the DYF-1 protein and an associated tubulin polyglutamylase (Ttll6), impairs the velocity of kinesin-2 motors in *C. elegans* amphid channel cilia, suggesting that tubulin polyglutamylation may regulate kinesin-2 motor processivity in the cilia (Ou *et al.*, 2005a; Pathak *et al.*, 2007; Scholey, 2008). Finally, in *C. elegans* amphid channel cilia, and potentially other types of cilia that deploy both heterotrimeric and homodimeric kinesin-2 motors during anterograde IFT, BBS proteins appear to play a critical role keeping the two kinesin-2 motors together (Blacque *et al.*, 2004; Ou *et al.*, 2005a; Pan *et al.*, 2006). Thus regulation of kinesin-2 motor activity appears to be quite complex involving a variety of different regulatory mechanisms (e.g., phosphorylation, conformational changes, tubulin modifications) and molecules, but how these different regulatory pathways and molecules interact and are coordinated during the IFT process is unclear. Further complicating the picture are findings suggesting that ciliary length may be regulated not only by changes in motor activity, but also via changes in the association between IFT particles and cargo proteins (Mukhopadhyay *et al.*, 2008; Pan and Snell, 2005; see also Section 12).

While the regulation of anterograde IFT and kinesin-II activity appears to be very complex and not yet fully understood, the regulation of

cytoplasmic dynein 2 and retrograde IFT is even more obscure. This may in part be because the motor complex has been difficult to purify biochemically (Rompolas *et al.*, 2007) and because the complex may contain additional components (e.g., LCs) that have not yet been identified (see Section 7). Nevertheless, it seems that in terms of docking of the dynein motor complex onto the anterograde IFT machinery, LC8 plays a critical role, because in a *Chlamydomonas* LC8 mutant, the dynein motor complex fails to enter the flagellar compartment (Rompolas *et al.*, 2007). Furthermore, in terms of regulating the transition between anterograde and retrograde IFT at the flagellar tip, IFT172 seems to play an essential role (Pedersen *et al.*, 2005; Tsao and Gorovsky, 2008a), possibly in conjunction with the small MT-associated protein EB1 (Pedersen *et al.*, 2005), which localizes to the flagellar tip and basal bodies in *Chlamydomonas* (Pedersen *et al.*, 2003). Interestingly, we recently found that EB1 is required for assembly of primary cilia in mouse fibroblasts, although in these cells, the effect of EB1 on ciliogenesis appeared to be mainly at the level of the basal body and not the ciliary tip (Schröder *et al.*, 2007). Consistent with these findings, EB1 was found to localize to the connecting cilia of rat photoreceptors (Schmitt and Wolfrum, 2001), which is a structure that is similar to the transition zone of other cilia and flagella (Insinna and Besharse, 2008). The EB1-binding partner p150^{Glued} interacts with BBS4 (Kim *et al.*, 2004) as well as with the centrosomal protein Cep290/NPNP6 (Chang *et al.*, 2006), suggesting that p150^{Glued} and EB1 may play a role in regulating ciliogenesis at the level of the transition zone/ciliary pore complex region (see Section 11), although further experiments are required to test this hypothesis. Since mammalian cells contain three EB1-related proteins (EB1, EB2, and EB3; Lansbergen and Akhmanova, 2006) it is also possible that EB2 and/or EB3 participate in some aspects of ciliogenesis, for example, IFT regulation at the ciliary tip. Indeed, preliminary results suggest that EB3, but not EB2, is required for ciliogenesis in cultured human fibroblasts, although the mechanism involved is still unknown (J. M. Schröder and L. B. Pedersen, unpublished data). Identification of proteins that interact with IFT172 and EB proteins may provide more clues about the mechanisms by which these proteins affect ciliogenesis at the ciliary tip and base.

11. TARGETING OF PROTEINS TO THE CILIARY COMPARTMENT: CLUES FROM CILIARY DISEASE GENES

Although the ciliary membrane is continuous with the plasma membrane of the cell, it is clear from numerous lines of evidence that the ciliary compartment is enriched for proteins, for example, specific membrane receptors and ion channels, that are absent or present in very low amounts

in the remaining parts of the cell (Christensen *et al.*, 2007; Rosenbaum and Witman, 2002). Furthermore, specific ciliary targeting sequences/motifs have been identified in a number of ciliary membrane proteins (for reviews, see Christensen *et al.*, 2007 and Chapter 5), implying that cells possess mechanisms for selectively sorting and targeting proteins to the ciliary compartment. How is this specific sorting and targeting of ciliary proteins achieved? Based on EM observations in protists (Bouck, 1971) and cultures of vertebrate fibroblasts and smooth muscle cells (Sorokin, 1962), as well as studies in vertebrate photoreceptors (Deretic and Papermaster, 1991), it was proposed that specific ciliary membrane proteins synthesized on the rough endoplasmatic reticulum are trafficked through the Golgi apparatus and then transported in post-Golgi vesicles to the base of the cilium where the vesicles are exocytosed at the site where ciliary transition fibers contact the membrane, and ciliary proteins then become associated with the IFT machinery. Furthermore, it was proposed that axonemal proteins synthesized in the cytoplasm associate peripherally with post-Golgi vesicles and are transported to the ciliary compartment in a similar fashion (Rosenbaum and Witman, 2002). Consistent with this view, immunogold EM in *Chlamydomonas* revealed that IFT particle polypeptides are highly concentrated at the ciliary transition fiber-membrane contact site (Deane *et al.*, 2001), suggesting that this site indeed is where proteins destined for the ciliary compartment associate with the IFT machinery prior to being transported across the barrier formed by the transition fibers and into the cilium proper. Recent evidence from vertebrate systems as well as nematodes strongly support this scenario for ciliary protein targeting, and have also begun to shed light on the molecular mechanisms involved in different aspects of this process (summarized in Fig. 2.3).

In terms of delivery and fusion of Golgi-derived vesicles to the ciliary base, several key players involved have now been identified, including the IFT complex B proteins IFT20 and DYF-11/MIP-T3 (Follit *et al.*, 2006; Li *et al.*, 2008; Omori *et al.*, 2008), small GTPases such as Rab8 (Nachury *et al.*, 2007), the pleckstrin homology domain-containing protein FAPP2 (Vieira *et al.*, 2006), BBS proteins and their binding partners (Nachury *et al.*, 2007), as well as the AP-1 adaptor complex (Bae *et al.*, 2006; Dwyer *et al.*, 2001; for reviews, see Leroux, 2007; Reiter and Mostov, 2006 and Chapter 5). For example, subcellular localization and siRNA-based studies in cultured vertebrate cells indicated that IFT20 colocalizes with Golgi markers and is required for targeting of polycystin-2 to the ciliary compartment (Follit *et al.*, 2006). Furthermore, recent studies in *C. elegans* and zebrafish showed that IFT20 interacts directly with DYF-11/MIP-T3, which in turn was found to be essential for early stages of ciliogenesis, and which interacts, at least indirectly, with the endocytotic regulator Rabaptin 5 as well as with Rab8 (Kunitomo and Iino, 2008; Li *et al.*, 2008; Omori *et al.*, 2008). Rab8 localizes to cilia and has been implicated in ciliary membrane

transport in vertebrates and *C. elegans* (Moritz *et al.*, 2001; Mukhopadhyay *et al.*, 2008; Nachury *et al.*, 2007). In the latter organism, it was suggested that Rab8-mediated vesicle trafficking to the cilium might be controlled by sensory input from specific receptors and ion channels located in the ciliary membrane (Mukhopadhyay *et al.*, 2008). Rab8 also interacts with a complex of at least seven BBS proteins, termed the BBSome, which was proposed to function in ciliary membrane biogenesis via a mechanism that might also include the pericentriolar matrix protein PCM-1 (Nachury *et al.*, 2007).

BBS is a genetically heterogeneous disorder characterized by cognitive impairment, obesity, polydactyly, renal cystic disease, and retinal degeneration. So far a total of 12 BBS genes have been identified, most of which have been characterized in detail at the molecular level (for reviews, see Blacque and Leroux, 2006; Tobin and Beales, 2007). Of particular interest here is a recent study demonstrating that mice lacking the genes encoding BBS2 or BBS4 exhibit a lack of ciliary localization of somatostatin receptor type 3 (Sstr3) and melanin-concentrating hormone receptor 1 (Mchr1) in the brain, indicating that BBS proteins are essential for targeting of specific receptors to the ciliary membrane (Berbari *et al.*, 2008). Consistent with these results, the ciliary TRPV channel OSM-9 was found to be mislocalized in *C. elegans* *bbs* mutants (Tan *et al.*, 2007). However, BBS proteins have also been suggested to participate in the regulation of anterograde IFT in certain subsets of *C. elegans* sensory cilia via coordination of heterotrimeric and homodimeric kinesin-2 motors (Ou *et al.*, 2005a), and several BBS proteins have been implicated in ubiquitination (Chiang *et al.*, 2006) and proteasome-mediated degradation of β -catenin (Gerdes *et al.*, 2007), suggesting that BBS proteins have multiple functions related to ciliary signaling, spanning from ciliary membrane vesicle/receptor transport and coordination of kinesin-2 motors to proteasome-mediated degradation of Wnt pathway components. This is in line with the pleiotropic clinical manifestations of BBS patients (Blacque and Leroux, 2006; Tobin and Beales, 2007).

As mentioned previously, the Golgi-derived vesicles destined for the ciliary compartment are probably exocytosed at or near the site where transition fibers contact the ciliary membrane (Rosenbaum and Witman, 2002), which is the site where IFT proteins accumulate (Deane *et al.*, 2001). The transition fibers appear to be derived from the distal appendages of the mother centriole (Paintrand *et al.*, 1992), and hence the formation of these appendages is likely to be essential for ciliogenesis. Indeed, studies in mammalian cells suggested that the Odf2 and Cep164 proteins are involved in forming the distal appendages on the mother centriole and depletion of these proteins resulted in failure to assemble primary cilia (Graser *et al.*, 2007; Ishikawa *et al.*, 2005). Interestingly, Odf2 was found to interact directly with Rab8 in yeast-2-hybrid and pull-down assays, suggesting a

direct link between the Odf2-containing distal appendages and the post-Golgi vesicle docking site at the ciliary base (Yoshimura *et al.*, 2007). Additional components of these appendages/transition fibers may include importin β -1, an essential component of the nuclear pore complex that interacts with Ran, regulates nuclear import and export and is required for ciliogenesis in MDCK cells (Fan *et al.*, 2007), as well as centrosomal proteins such as pericentrin (Jurczyk *et al.*, 2004; for a review on centrosomal proteins involved in ciliogenesis, see Pedersen *et al.*, 2008). Furthermore, emerging evidence suggests that several proteins associated with nephronophthisis, MKS, and related disorders such as Joubert and Senior-Løken syndromes also play a critical role in ciliogenesis at the ciliary base (for recent reviews, see Lehman *et al.*, 2008; Salomon *et al.*, 2008; von Schnakenburg *et al.*, 2007). In mammals several of the nephrocystins (NPHPs) such as NPHP-4, -5, -6, and -8 as well as some of their binding partners localize to connecting cilia of photoreceptors (Arts *et al.*, 2007; Khanna *et al.*, 2005; Salomon *et al.*, 2008), and for some of the NPHPs a requirement in ciliogenesis has been established. For example, siRNA-mediated depletion of NPHP-6/Cep290 impairs ciliogenesis in cultured retinal pigment epithelial cells (Graser *et al.*, 2007). Further, in *C. elegans* NPHP-1 and NPHP-4 localize to basal bodies and transition zones of sensory cilia, and mutant animals defective in the genes encoding these proteins display cilia in which certain GFP-tagged IFT proteins display abnormal and reduced ciliary localization patterns, suggesting a role for NPHP-1 and NPHP-4 in regulating ciliary access of the IFT machinery (Jauregui *et al.*, 2008). How might NPHPs regulate such selective entry of proteins into the ciliary compartment? At the nuclear pore access of proteins harboring nuclear localization signals depends on a G protein that, when in its GDP state, binds the protein to be transferred and releases it again in the nucleus when a nuclear guanine nucleotide exchange factor (GEF) converts the G protein to its GTP state (Chook and Blobel, 1999). Given that GEFs and small G proteins have been localized to cilia and ciliary transition zones in a variety of cell types and organisms (Hong *et al.*, 2003; Leroux, 2007; Nair *et al.*, 1999), and that some of the mammalian NPHPs (e.g., NPHP-4, NPHP-5, and NPHP-8) interact with the putative GEF RPGR-ORF15 that is also localized near the ciliary transition zone (Arts *et al.*, 2007; Khanna *et al.*, 2005), one can speculate that NPHPs and associated GEFs may similarly regulate access of ciliary proteins at the base of the cilium via small G proteins.

While the available evidence suggests a role for NPHPs in regulating ciliary access of proteins at the ciliary base, the molecular mechanisms involved are likely to be complex and involve a number of additional proteins that are only now beginning to be uncovered. Thus a recent study in *C. elegans* (Williams *et al.*, 2008) showed that NPHP-1 and NPHP-4 function redundantly with a complex of three B9 domain-containing proteins (XBX-7, TZA-1, and TZA-2), which are homologous

to human MKS1, B9D2/Stumpy, and B9D1 proteins, respectively. Williams and colleagues found that *C. elegans* XBX-7, TZA-1, and TZA-2 localize to the base of sensory cilia, but animals harboring mutations in any one of the three genes encoding these proteins do not have any overt ciliary structural or functional defects. Although the lack of ciliary defects in the mutant animals could be explained by partial retention of B9 protein function (the mutants were not null mutants), when mutations in the genes encoding XBX-7, TZA-1, or TZA-2 were combined with mutations in *NPHP-1* or *NPHP-4*, severe ciliary structural defects were observed (Williams *et al.*, 2008). Consistent with a role for B9 domain proteins in ciliogenesis, loss of the mammalian homologs of XBX-7 (MKS1) or TZA-1 (Stumpy) impairs formation of primary cilia (Dawe *et al.*, 2007b; Town *et al.*, 2008). In addition, for MKS1 as well as for its binding partner MKS3 it was shown that depletion of the proteins impaired migration of centrioles to the ciliary assembly site at the apical plasma membrane, suggesting a role for these MKS proteins in centriole migration and/or docking (Dawe *et al.*, 2007b). Whether MKS proteins contribute to centriole migration/docking in all cell types is uncertain and may depend on cell morphology, because primary fibroblasts from patients with mutations in the newly identified *MKS6/CC2D2A* gene lack primary cilia but display normal localization of centrioles at the apical plasma membrane (Tallila *et al.*, 2008). As more and more ciliary disease genes are being identified and characterized, it is also becoming evident that the phenotype/clinical feature of a specific disease-causing mutation varies greatly depending on the nature of the mutation (Lehman *et al.*, 2008; Marshall, 2008). Consequently, determining the molecular mechanism(s) by which individual ciliary disease proteins function will require careful examination of these proteins at the genetic, biochemical, and cellular levels.

12. IFT AND CILIA-MEDIATED SIGNALING

The ciliary membrane is a repository for receptors and ion channels involved in a number of signaling pathways that control cell growth, behavior, and development, including the vertebrate Shh, PDGFR α , polycystin, and Wnt pathways (Christensen *et al.*, 2007; Eggenschwiler and Anderson, 2007; Pazour and Witman, 2003; Singla and Reiter, 2006). Given the requirement for IFT in building the ciliary axoneme it is perhaps not surprising that mutations in genes encoding IFT particle or motor subunits adversely affect signaling mediated via these pathways (Corbit *et al.*, 2008; Huangfu *et al.*, 2003; Pazour *et al.*, 2000; Schneider *et al.*, 2005). Emerging evidence suggests, however, that IFT also plays a more direct role in cilia-mediated signaling. For example, during mating in

Chlamydomonas, targeting of a cGMP-dependent protein kinase to a discrete flagellar compartment was shown to depend directly on IFT (Wang *et al.*, 2006), and studies of the Shh pathway in vertebrates also strongly support a direct role for IFT in signaling (reviewed in Scholey and Anderson, 2006). One way that IFT could participate directly in signaling is by transporting specific signaling proteins (e.g., receptors and ion channels) into the ciliary compartment in response to environmental cues. As discussed above and summarized in Fig. 2.3, there is ample evidence suggesting that IFT, in conjunction with a number of vesicle transport and adapter proteins such as Rab8 and BBS proteins, is directly involved in transporting specific membrane proteins into the ciliary compartment. Other lines of evidence suggest that such IFT-mediated transport could be modulated in response to environmental cues. For example, recent work in *C. elegans* indicated that sensory signaling input from specific ciliary chemosensory signaling molecules is required to maintain the structure and architecture of AWB olfactory neuron cilia, and that this signaling-mediated remodeling of cilia architecture depends on kinesin-II as well as on BBS proteins and Rab8 (Mukhopadhyay *et al.*, 2008). Further support for the idea that IFT-mediated ciliary targeting of specific signaling molecules may be modulated by environmental signals are provided by observations that IFT mediates vectorial movement of TRPV channels within the ciliary membrane of *C. elegans* sensory neurons (Qin *et al.*, 2005) and that the 7TM receptor protein Smoothened shuttles into and out of the cilia in response to Shh ligand (Corbit *et al.*, 2005; Rohatgi *et al.*, 2007). The mechanisms by which environmental signals affect IFT-mediated transport of specific signaling molecules are still elusive, however, but appear not to involve alterations of IFT motor activity (Mukhopadhyay *et al.*, 2008). Rather, it is likely that environmental cues affect the loading/unloading of specific IFT cargoes at the ciliary base and tip. Indeed, there is evidence from *Chlamydomonas* indicating that signals that trigger disassembly of the flagellum can regulate the association of axonemal proteins with IFT particles at the flagellar base and tip (Pan and Snell, 2005). How such environmental signals are translated to regulate IFT-cargo protein interactions is, however, unclear.

While the role for IFT in targeting specific signaling proteins to the ciliary compartment appears to be important for cilia-mediated signal transduction, the downregulation, processing and/or removal of ciliary signaling proteins is likely to be equally important. Indeed, partial or transient inhibition of IFT in *Chlamydomonas*, *C. elegans*, or vertebrate cells was shown to result in accumulation of polycystin-2 in the cilium, indicating that IFT plays a role in removing polycystin-2 from the ciliary compartment (Bae and Barr, 2008; Huang *et al.*, 2007; Pazour *et al.*, 2002). Moreover, evidence from vertebrates indicated a requirement for IFT in the processing of Gli transcription factors of the Shh pathway, which directly impinges on transcription of Shh-responsive genes (Haycraft *et al.*, 2005). The notion

that IFT-mediated processing of ciliary signaling components affects transcription of downstream target genes is also supported by studies indicating that the ciliary polycystin-1 receptor becomes processed following mechanical stimulation, and subsequently translocates to the nucleus to directly regulate transcription via the transcription factor STAT6 and its coactivator P100 (Chauvet *et al.*, 2004; Low *et al.*, 2006). The extent to which IFT is involved in this processing, however, and the exact mechanisms by which such IFT-mediated processing might occur are not clear.



13. CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES

Since its discovery in 1993 (Kozminski *et al.*, 1993), significant progress has been made toward understanding the molecular mechanisms and functions of IFT. Virtually all the IFT particle polypeptides and motor subunits have been identified, and most of them characterized at the functional level in multiple organisms. However, we still know relatively little about how IFT is regulated; what is clear, however, is that IFT regulation is complex involving many different molecules and mechanisms that may affect motor activity and/or the association between IFT particles and their cargo at the ciliary base and tip. What is also quite clear is that there is an intimate relationship between IFT regulation, environmental signals, and the cell cycle, which is only now beginning to be uncovered.

One important aspect of IFT regulation involves the association of ciliary precursors and IFT particles at the ciliary base, which likely is controlled, at least in part, by sensory input via the ciliary membrane. Combined efforts from many different groups have revealed a growing list of disease-related proteins, including BBS, NPHPs, and MKS-associated proteins, which may be critical for regulating access of proteins into the ciliary compartment and potentially the association of such proteins with IFT particles. A future challenge will be to define the exact interactions between the large number of proteins that constitute or function in the vicinity of the ciliary transition fibers, and to determine how these interactions are regulated in response to environmental and cellular signals. To this end, it will be necessary to employ biochemical methods such as fractionation and sucrose density gradient analysis of isolated ciliary preparations, for which organisms like *Chlamydomonas* are ideally suited. Finally, it is becoming apparent that while IFT plays a critical role in bringing precursors and signaling proteins into the ciliary compartment, it may have an equally important role in their subsequent processing and removal. There is good evidence that processed ciliary proteins (e.g., receptors and transcription factors) can affect transcription of specific target genes. This crosstalk

between the cilium and nucleus will be an interesting avenue for future research. Among candidate proteins involved in regulating transcription in response to ciliary signals are proteins associated with the development of ciliopathies, but which do not localize to the cilium, such as the recently identified Seahorse protein from zebrafish (Kishimoto *et al.*, 2008).

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